



## DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

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**From: Bishop Steven Biegler**

**Date: April 21, 2025**

**Re: Prayer upon news of the death of Pope Francis**

I encourage all the faithful to pray for the deceased Pope Francis. The custom of praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be is encouraged, especially with children, as is the Rosary for the repose of his soul. The prayer *Eternal Rest* is also appropriate.

I will celebrate Mass for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis at 11:30 AM Tuesday, April 22 at the Cathedral of St. Mary.

During the Octave of Easter, no Mass for the Dead except a Funeral Mass may be celebrated. The priests are asked to offer Mass for Pope Francis using the prayers from the Roman Missal "Masses for the Dead, Various Prayers for the Dead, #1, For a Pope." as soon as April 28th.

I will offer Masses for the Dead for the deceased Pope Francis as follows:

- 6:30 AM Monday, April 28 at St. Anthony Church in Casper, and
- 6:45 AM Tuesday, April 29 at the Cathedral of St. Mary in Cheyenne.

Upon the death of Pope Francis, he is not named in the Eucharistic Prayer:

- Eucharistic Prayer I and III, delete the words, "your servant Francis, our Pope and"
- Eucharistic Prayer II, delete the words, "Francis, our Pope and"
- Eucharistic Prayer IV, delete the words "your servant Francis, our Pope"
- EP MVNO-I, "...Strengthen the bond of unity between the pastors of your people, together with Steven, our Bishop, and the whole Order of Bishops..."

An intention for the deceased Pontiff may be included in the Universal Prayer at any upcoming Mass. The following are provided as examples:

- That Pope Francis, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, may rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For Pope Francis, who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff for 12 years, that he may worship God forever in the liturgy of heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.
- That the tireless efforts of Pope Francis, now called to the Lord, may bear fruit in unity, peace, and love among all men and women. Let us pray to the Lord.
- For Pope Francis, who proclaimed the joy of the Gospel, that the merciful Lord may accompany him to our heavenly homeland. Let us pray to the Lord.

**Decoration of the Church:** In an appropriate place in the church, a fitting picture of the deceased Pontiff may be discreetly placed on view, accompanied by a bouquet of flowers and a votive candle. Black bunting may be placed around the picture, as well as on the façade or over the doors to the church. (This should be removed after the Pope's funeral.)

Church bells may be solemnly tolled immediately upon the news of the Pope's death, at the hour of the Funeral Mass in Rome, and at other appropriate times.

**Novendiales** (Nine Days of Mourning): At the direction of the College of Cardinals, the novendiales ("nine days") are customarily observed as official days of mourning in Rome and throughout the Church. Typically, these begin with the funeral Mass for the Pontiff.

In addition to the celebration of Masses for the Dead, the clergy could encourage the public prayer of the Liturgy of the Hours, Eucharistic adoration and other devotional prayer, lectures on the teaching and legacy of the Pope, activities for the relief of the poor offered for the intention of his soul, or other such initiatives.

A sample novena is attached (English and Spanish). This is not to begin until the day of the funeral. The novena could be used in people's homes, during Eucharistic Exposition, or in connection with the Liturgy of the Hours. The novena is not to be inserted into the Mass; however, it could be recited after the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Peace in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Steven Biegler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S".

Bishop Steven Biegler